SUPPLEMENT TO THE BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

LONDON SATURDAY JANUARY 18 1940

THE PROTECTION OF PRACTICES SCHEME IN OPERATION

Now that schemes for the protection of practices of doctors who are absent on Service have been in operation for a full year it is considered that the following account, which has been sent to us from Gateshead, an area in which there has been no large influx or evacuation of the population, may be of interest.

The Gateshead Divisional area consists of two parts for the purpose of the scheme, defined by the boundary between the Gateshead Borough and Durham County Insurance Committee areas. The former area comprises mixed practices each about equally made up of private, National Health Insurance, and Public Medical Service patients. The latter consists almost entirely of colliery practices with large colliery clubs. The actual administration for the county area has been left in the hands of the clerk to the County Insurance Committee, who directs the County Bureau, which controls the scheme for the rural areas of the whole county. In the Gateshead Borough area the administration is in the hands of two subcommittees of the Emergency Committee: one the Insurance Bureau, consisting of the chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary of the Emergency Committee and the clerk to the Insurance Committee, and the other the Private and P.M.S. Bureau, consisting of the above members of the Emergency Committee and the secretary of the Gateshead Public Medical Service.

The actual scheme follows very closely the British Medical Association's Model Scheme, and of sixty-two doctors practising in the area sixty-one have signed the necessary agreement. The practitioner who is a non-signatory is in an outlying practice in the county area. Of thirteen doctors practising in the county area three are on Service. The "deputy" system has been adopted, and as the absent practitioners are in all cases partners no actual pooling of practices has been necessary. Payment for N.H.I. transfers from practices where a partner is an absentee has been made at the rate of half the ordinary N.H.I. capitation fee to acting and absentee practitioners. Expenses have been a primary charge of 5% on all moneys handled by the Bureau—for example, the N.H.I. cheques payable to a partnership on behalf of the absentee partner. Because of the nature of the practices the actual adjustment of moneys between the acting and absentee practitioners has been very small.

In the Gateshead Borough area seven principals are absentees; three practices have been pooled; three partners are absentees; and one principal who is an absentee has carried on his practice with an assistant deputizing. In the case of N.H.I. and P.M.S. patients the practice pool system has been adopted—that is, the capitation fee payable to an acting practitioner varies with the practice from which the patient comes. Payments in respect of patients who contract out of a partnership or deputy practice are made on a basis arrived at by averaging the pool values. In the case of private and P.M.S. patients a drug fund is formed for acting practitioners based on a 5% credit to the acting from the absentee practitioner.

During the first quarter of the scheme's operation the expense deduction was 7½%; for the last three quarters this figure has been reduced to 5% over all classes of practice. Since the N.H.I. Bureau costs much less to run than the Private Bureau a cash transfer is made quarterly from the former to the latter. The result of the above deduction is that in the case of insured patients acting practitioners divide 45% of an absentee's cheque while the absentee gets 50%. A partnership or a "deputy" practice receives 97½% of its cheque on behalf of the absentee. The apparent deduction of 2½% only is due, of course, to the fact that the N.H.I. Bureau handles only one-half of the full absentee's cheques, the absentee being paid his 50% direct by the Insurance Committee. In the case of private and P.M.S. patients the whole of the income is handled by the Bureau; in consequence 52½% of the income is paid to acting practitioners and 42½% to absentee practitioners. In actual figures the results were as follows:

Insured Patients:

Total number of patients on single-handed absentees' lists: January 1, 1940, 2,691; July 1, 1940, 2,531.

Total number of patients on partnership and nominee practitioners list: January 1, 1940, 4,886; July 1, 1940, 4,701.

Total number of patients of absentee practitioners on temporary lists of acting practitioners: January 1, 1940, 696; July 1, 1940, 1,301.

	£	s.	d.
Total remuneration of absentee practitioners:			
Single-handed practitioners	614	10	1
Partners and nominees	1,805	18	0
Total net payments to acting practitioners	576	19	7

The average quarterly unit value per temporary transfer paid to acting practitioners was 5s. 11d. for the quarter ending December 31, and fell to 2s. 4d. for the quarter ending September 30. The highest value paid in respect of any practice for any quarter was 7s. 3d. The average unit value for the whole period in respect of partnership and pooled practices was 2s. 5d. This figure will of course, in time, as more of the absentees' patients become temporary transfers, approach half the normal capitation value payable in respect of patients on a permanent list.

The total income accruing to the N.H.I. Bureau to meet expenses was £104 14s. 1d., of which £70 was transferred to the Private and P.M.S. Bureau. The expenditure of the N.H.I. Bureau was £32 10s. 6d.

The following results were obtained by the Private Bureau:

	£	s.	d.
Gross private accounts paid for year	484	13	4
Gross P.M.S. accounts paid for year, including partnerships	1,233	16	8
Total administration costs	172	17	6
Less received from N.H.I. Bureau towards such costs	70	0	0
Paid to acting practitioners (private accounts).. ..	246	7	0
Paid to acting practitioners (P.M.S. accounts).. ..	114	12	6
Paid to absentee practitioners (private accounts) ..	204	17	4
Paid to absentee practitioners, single-handed (P.M.S. accounts)	89	0	10
Paid to absentee practitioners, partners and nominated partners (P.M.S. accounts)	916	11	11

Total private accounts outstanding, £214 17s. 6d. at September 30. (Of this total £93 11s. has since been paid.)

The total of the private fees paid on account of absent practitioners is probably about one-third of that which these practices would bring in in normal times; this, I believe, has been a general finding throughout the country. The question of possible leakages has been carefully checked, and a deduction was made from the cheque of one practitioner for a misinterpretation of the scheme.

The committee now feels fairly confident that the scheme is being conscientiously administered by the acting practitioners. The discrepancy may be in part explained by the loss to absentees of new patients—there is a fair amount of movement of patients of the private class from one residential part of the Tyneside area to another—and to a tendency to "minimal" rather than "maximal" attendance, especially in the case of chronic patients of absentees. There are also a great many minor complaints which will take a patient to a doctor he knows well, but which he will put up with rather than consult a new one. In order to tighten things up still further the medical officer of health for the borough drew attention to several sources of income coming under the aegis of his department—for example, notification fees and fees payable under the Midwives Act, etc. He arranged that payment of such fees in the case of patients of absentee

practitioners would be adjusted by his department, which would pay 50% of the fee to the acting practitioner and 50% to the Bureau for payment to the absentee without deduction. Practitioners were circularized with respect to these fees and fees for insurance examinations, vaccinations, etc.

Apart from the rather unsatisfactory return from private practice, the Scheme has operated very smoothly.

Medical Services of H.M. Forces Appointments

ROYAL NAVY

Surgeon Commanders A. C. Shaw and R. A. Brown to be Surgeon Captains.

Surgeon Lieut.-Commanders J. M. McNamara and M. J. Brosnan to be Surgeon Commanders.

ROYAL NAVAL VOLUNTEER RESERVE

Surgeon Lieut.-Commander W. F. Lascelles to be Surgeon Commander.

To be Surgeon Lieutenants: H. E. Rutherford and D. M. Sheppard.

Probationary Surgeon Lieut. J. Benn to be Surgeon Lieutenant.

To be Temporary Surgeon Lieutenants: L. D. Osler, A. G. Cumming, H. S. A. Corfield, L. Jones, and G. A. Bell.

Probationary Temporary Surgeon Lieuts. A. B. Pollard, D. Walton, D. E. Meares, and J. L. Hill to be Temporary Surgeon Lieutenants.

ARMY

Colonel B. Biggar, half pay list, late R.A.M.C., having reached the age for retirement, has been placed on retired pay.

Major R. J. Blackham, C.B., C.M.G., C.I.E., D.S.O., retired pay, late R.AM.C., has been restored to the rank of Colonel on re-employment in that rank.

Lieut.-Colonel A. G. Tresidder, C.I.E., I.M.S. (ret.), has reverted to the rank of Major at his own request whilst employed during the present emergency.

Colonel R. S. Townsend, M.C., I.M.S. (ret.), has reverted to the rank of Major at his own request, whilst employed during the present emergency.

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Lieut.-Colonel (Temporary Colonel) J. A. L. Wilson having attained the age limit for retirement has retired and remains employed.

Lieut.-Colonel S. P. Sykes has retired and remains employed.

Major (Temporary Lieut.-Colonel) R. D. Davy, M.C., to be Lieutenant-Colonel.

Majors F. McKibbin and K. M. Nelson, M.C., to be Lieutenant-Colonels.

Captain T. D. M. Martin has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health.

J. E. Miller to be Lieutenant (on probation).

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Flight Lieut. O. M. Fraser to be Squadron Leader.

Flying Officers B. C. Curwood and R. Napier to be Flight Lieutenant.

To be Medical Officers with the relative rank of Flying Officer: Mary J. Allardice and Winifred A. Kane.

ROYAL AIR FORCE RESERVE

Flying Officer J. H. L. Newnham to be Flight Lieutenant.

AUXILIARY AIR FORCE

Flying Officer C. Roff to be Flight Lieutenant.

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE

To be Squadron Leaders: A. C. P. Campbell and I. J. Davies.

To be Flight Lieutenants: S. I. Ballard, H. A. D. Small, T. A. Edwards, D. C. Farquharson, G. E. Hesketh, and F. T. Madge

Flying Officers R. Carpenter, J. H. McElney, P. Griffiths, G. L. Gryspeerdt, A. Caplan, J. Watkins-Pitchford, D. A. P. Anderson, A. S. Lee, J. R. Conelly, T. A. James, W. Poskett, A. J. Smith, W. F. Walton, H. G. Vyse, T. V. Mendlesohn, T. A. W. Edwards, K. G. Bergin, C. R. Hamand, D. Stafford-Clark, and D. Sheehan to be Flight Lieutenants.

Pilot Officers J. L. Trent and J. G. M. McMurchy to be Flight Lieutenants.

Flight Lieut. C. O. Gange has resigned his commission.

To be Flying Officers: E. E. Bowen, D. I. Buchanan, C. W. D. Cole, N. Duguid, N. G. Farrell, J. Fiddes, F. E. Fletcher, D. M. I. Freeman, H. O. Hughes, R. K. McElderry, A. G. Spencer, C. S. Ashwell, G. Beven, D. Canning, J. K. T. Cherry, H. H. Dickson, L. Fridjohn, H. L. Garstein, B. R. Isaacs, D. A. Lindsay, L. H. Lithman, R. L. P. Lytle, D. H. MacCormack, J. McGregor, C. D. Ross, J. R. Simpson, W. G. Smeaton, L. G. Tulloch, I. Young, G. Ashforth, D. M. R. Barry, G. D. S. Briggs, M. A. Charrett, D. E. Christie, I. L. W. Clancey, H. D. Elliott, C. H. Gibson, J. W. K. Harper, T. H. Hughes, J. H. Jacobs, D. L. Johnson, P. R. Latcham, P. St. G. Robinson, A. Skene, J. A. H. Smart, R. F. Stronge, L. L. Whytehead, C. M. Chambers, T. C. Corson, D. J. Dawson, W. R. Dyke, D. G. Evans, S. Gnessen, J. Phillips, E. Robinson, J. Rubie, and R. N. Stansfield.

ROYAL AIR FORCE VOLUNTEER RESERVE: DENTAL BRANCH

Flying Officer J. L. Trainer, L.R.C.P. & S.Ed., to be Flight Lieutenant.

REGULAR ARMY RESERVE OF OFFICERS

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Colonel R. M. Dickson, O.B.E., has ceased to belong to the Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health.

Major H. E. P. Yorke, M.C., has ceased to belong to the Reserve of Officers on account of ill-health.

Captain (acting Major) E. J. Mannix to be Brevet Major, under the provisions of Article 168, Royal Warrant for Pay and Promotion, 1940.

TERRITORIAL ARMY

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Captain A. L. Evans has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health and has resumed the rank of Captain.

Captain R. A. Kernohan has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health.

Captain R. I. Hyder has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health. (Substituted for the notification in the *Supplement* to the *London Gazette*, date September 13, 1940.)

War Substantive Captain M. K. Mellett has relinquished his commission on account of ill-health.

Lieut. F. J. Fowler to be Captain.

LAND FORCES: EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS

Lieut. R. M. Williams has relinquished his commission.

Lieut. L. L. Ratazzi has resigned his commission.

Lieuts. W. S. McBride and G. M. Gibb have relinquished their commissions on account of ill-health.

Dr. (Lieut.) Muriel Boycott has relinquished her appointment.

Dr. D. K. Small, Medical Officer with the relative rank of Captain, has relinquished her appointment on account of ill-health.

To be Lieutenants: J. Gaughan, A. Coyer, E. D. Forster, D. S. Johnson, A. W. F. Craig, W. R. Blore, M.C., J. J. McCall, T. L. Macdonald, M. D. Milne, D. Thomson, W. A. L. Macfadyen, G. C. Shepherd, R. W. Taylor, N. W. Rawlings, G. A. Bell, C. J. Cellan-Jones, S. L. Henderson, R. M. Maher, J. J. Reeks, L. R. Jordon, A. G. Brown, E. W. Evans, R. M. Johnson, J. A. Key, C. J. R. MacDonald, B. Phillips, J. M. Ross, J. C. Scott, W. F. Smyth, J. Watt, F. de Burgh-Whyte, J. W. Bigger, T. W. Carrick, J. C. Gillett, K. W. Leon, P. S. Wright, S. Adams, J. P. S. Dunn, F. H. McKenna, W. G. Q. Mills, P. Nathan, F. O. Potter, J. H. Rees, D. J. Campbell, J. Fielding, R. W. L. Hall, M. McAlley, J. D. Morgan, P. R. Rainford, D. F. Sheriff, J. S. Simmers, R. Farncombe, J. A. Perkins, J. R. D. Williams, T. C'sato, G. W. Hearn, R. A. Henson, J. P. Lask, J. J. Messant, P. J. G. Quinn, S. Samuels, B. Schwartz, B. W. Wood, E. A. Wood, T. C. Thorne, H. Barrowman, J. G. Bickerton, W. M. Down, K. J. Dunlop, R. Finlay, A. J. Fulthorpe, W. G. C. Gillies, P. D. Johnson, T. W. Lees, G. J. Leyden, J. McGarrity, A. S. McKenzie, H. J. McPherson, D. J. Roberts, G. B. Royce, H. F. Strickland, F. J. Fish, J. O'D. Alexander, F. C. McLaren, G. B. Malone-Lee, H. I. H. Porcher, L. R. D. Smith, E. W. L. Thompson, T. G. Wilson, H. D. O'Brien, D. Loughridge, G. A. Anderson, G. W. Armour, S. Y. Baird, J. M. Ellis, S. T. G. Gray, W. Magowan, S. F. Mitchell, K. C. W. Shawcross, M. B. Watson, W. M. Winter, F. Dornan, E. F. Edson, W. Fielding, H. D. Hudd, K. K. Hussain, A. P. Massie, W. Morron, W. R. N. Sutherland, W. S. Thomson, H. Tatton, F. A. S. Austen, G. H. M. Hemsted, E. D. Pridie, O.B.E., D.S.O., J. Fleming, R. L. Lancaster, R. B. Campion, V. M. Skoufarides, B. S. Sabet.

COLONIAL MEDICAL SERVICE

J. B. Davy, M.B., D.T.M., has been appointed Senior Medical Officer, Tanganyika Territory.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES AND LECTURES

ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND.—At Royal Society of Medicine, 1, Wimpole Street, W., *Mon.*, 3 p.m., Mr. L. E. C. Norbury, Carcinoma of the Rectum, with Special Reference to its Pathology and Treatment, based on a survey of cases at St. Mark's Hospital during the past ten years; *Wed.*, 3 p.m., Mr. Norman Capener, The Lumbo-sacral Joint: A Discussion upon Spondylolisthesis, Scoliolis, and Sciatica; *Thurs.*, 3 p.m., Mr. R. E. Smith, The Undescended Testicle.

VACANCIES

MEDICAL REFEREES UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1925, for dermatological cases arising in the County Court Districts of Accrington, Blackburn and Clitheroe, Blackpool, Chorley, Lancaster and Preston (Circuit No. 4), Liverpool, St. Helens and Widnes, Southport and Wigan (Circuit No. 6), Altrincham, Warrington, Birkenhead, Runcorn, Chester, Crewe and Nantwich, Market Drayton and Northwich (Circuit No. 7), Ashton-under-Lyne and Stalybridge, Burnley, Colne and Nelson, Todmorden, Congleton, Macclesfield, Hyde, Stockport and Rawtenstall (Circuit No. 10). Applications to the Under-Secretary of State, Home Office (Industrial Division), Cleland House, Page Street, S.W.1, by February 1.

MEDICAL REFEREES UNDER THE WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1925, for dermatological cases arising in the County Court Districts of Abergavenny, Pontypool and Blaenavon, Monmouth, Cardiff and Barry, Chepstow, Newport, Tredegar, Abertillery and Bargoed (Circuit No. 24), Aberdare and Mountain Ash, Merthyr Tydfil, Pontypridd, Ystradyfodwg and Porth, Bridgend, Neath and Port Talbot (Circuit No. 30), and Aberayron, Cardigan, Carmarthen, Llandilo Fawr and Ammanford, Lampeter, Llandovery, Llanelly, Newcastle-in-Emlyn, Aberystwyth, Haverfordwest, Pembroke Dock and Narberth, and Swansea (Circuit No. 31). Applications to the Under-Secretary of State (Industrial Division), Home Office, Cleland House, Page Street, S.W.1, by February 1.

APPOINTMENTS

COLLS, MARGARET, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Temporary Medical Officer, Women's Internment Camp, Isle of Man.

O'FARRELL, P. T., F.R.C.P.I., D.P.H., D.T.M., Visiting Physician, St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin.

EXAMINING FACTORY SURGEONS.—W. R. H. Pooler, M.B., B.Ch., for the Wellington District (Shropshire); D. A. Richards, M.B., Ch.B., for the Appleby District (Westmorland).

B.M.A.: Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

ABERDEEN BRANCH: CITY OF ABERDEEN DIVISION.—At Marischal College, Aberdeen, Tuesday, January 21, 8.30 p.m. Prof. E. W. H. Cruickshank: The Factors which determine the Essential Foods in Wartime.

DORSET AND WEST HANTS BRANCH: BOURNEMOUTH DIVISION.—At Boscombe, Wednesday, January 22, 3.30 p.m. Address by Mr. L. D. Gammans, Deputy Regional Information Officer, Ministry of Information: The New Method of Waging Warfare.

SOUTH WALES AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCH: SWANSEA DIVISION.—At Mackworth Hotel, Swansea, Thursday, January 23, 2 p.m. B.M.A. lecture by Dr. W. Ernest Lloyd: Diseases of the Chest (illustrated).

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS

The charge for inserting announcements under this head is 10s. 6d. This amount should be forwarded with the notice, authenticated with the name and address of the sender, and should reach the Advertisement Manager not later than the first post Tuesday morning to ensure insertion in the current issue.

MARRIAGE

STEVENSON—DUKE.—On January 2, 1941, at Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge, Claude M. Stevenson, M.D.Cantab., to Johanna Duke, widow of the late W. H. Duke, Fellow of Jesus College.

DEATH

MCKAIL.—On January 10, 1941, at Abington, 81, Carmyle Avenue, Carmyle, Glasgow, Robert Buchanan Forbes McKail, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.M., late Medical Superintendent of Brockhall Certified Institution for Mental Defectives, Langho, Lancashire.